

◆League of Women Voters of the United States ◆Friends of the Earth◆  
◆Environmental Defense Fund◆Natural Heritage Institute◆  
◆Sierra Club◆California Sportfishing Alliance◆Natural Resources Defense Council◆  
◆The Bay Institute of San Francisco◆League of Women Voters of CA◆  
◆Friends of the River◆Planning and Conservation League◆  
◆Clean Water Action◆Golden Gate Audubon Society◆  
◆National Wildlife Federation◆

April 15, 1999

The Honorable Bud Shuster  
Chairman  
U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Shuster:

We view with alarm the apparent intention to adopt a package of Federal water supply projects for the 4th Congressional District of California in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

The proposed action appears to impose unwarranted additional burdens on the Federal Central Valley Project—both to its contractors and the riverine environment affected by the CVP.

We do not believe that it is appropriate to include the projects apparently under consideration in the biennial Corps of Engineers authorization bill—the Water Resources Development Act. Some of the most obvious deficiencies that should preclude consideration of these measures include:

- The Department of Interior has already determined that there is no Federal interest in major further Federal involvement in local water supply projects in the American River watershed.
- None of these actions or projects have undergone Federal or non-Federal project level feasibility and environmental review.
- The projects waive standard repayment obligations to the Federal government.
- Department of Interior projects are not in the jurisdiction of the House Transportation Committee.
- There has not been a hearing on the 4th Congressional District proposals.

We are also disturbed by the apparent lack of coordination, or consistency with, the recommendations of two of the most important statewide and regional water supply and environmental protection planning efforts affecting the American River basin — CALFED and the Sacramento Area Water Forum.

Finally, we object to actions which may be proposed to overturn the Central Valley Project Improvement Act's contracting provisions, efforts to defeat a review of these projects under the National Environmental Policy Act by assuming that the diversions have already occurred and to add additional demands on our already over committed CVP.

Sincerely yours,

Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins  
League of Women Voters of the United States

David Conrad  
National Wildlife Federation

Thomas Graff  
Environmental Defense Fund

Hamilton Candee  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Arthur Feinstein  
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